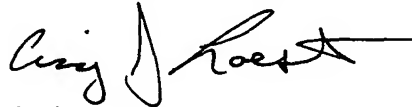


## REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is made to remove the multiple dependencies from claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 17 and to remove all reference numbers from claims 1-18. Please enter this amendment prior to the calculation of the filing fee.

If a conference call would be useful in resolving issues arising from the filing of this communication, please contact the undersigned at the below-noted number.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig J. Loest", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Craig J. Loest  
Reg. No. 48,557

Docket No.: 072211-9017

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